

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20

USIA-06 SCS-02 SCA-01 CU-02 DRC-01 IO-04 /067 W

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P 140440Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6418

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6798

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: INTERROGATION OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY OGLE

REFS: A. SEOUL 6797 B. SEOUL 6786

1. FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE OCTOBER 12, REVEREND GEORGE OGLE GAVE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND TO EMBOFF ABOUT HIS KCIA OVERNIGHT DETENTION AND QUESTIONING.

2. OGLE SAID BOTH CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT CHURCH GROUPS HAD RECENTLY DECIDED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSISTING FAMILIES OF SEVEN OLD TIME LEFTISTS. THESE MEN RECEIVED DEATH SENTENCES UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURE 4 FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT WITH STUDENTS. FAMILIES OF THE GROUP HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND RECENT PRAYER RALLIES AND PRAYER AND PROTEST PETITIONS NOW EXPLICITLY ALSO INCLUDE REQUESTS FOR RELEASE OF PRP PRISONERS.

3. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, NCCC-K COMMITTEE FOR AIDING FAMILIES OF EMERGENCY MEASURES (EM) PRISONERS HELD MEETING AT WHICH OGLE BRIEFLY STATED THAT RESULT OF COMMITTEE'S CONTACT WITH FAMILIES OF PRP PRISONERS AND INVESTIGATION HAD REVEALED THEY LARGELY INNOCENT VICTIMS AND THEN INVOKED PRAYER ASKING THAT THEY ALSO BE PARDONED. PRIOR TO MEETING OGLE AND SMALL GROUP OF KOREAN PASTORS AND PRIESTS HAD ALSO WRITTEN STATEMENT
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REGARDING BACKGROUND AND TREATMENT OF PRP PRISONERS, AS WELL

AS STORY OF ORIGINAL TRIAL IN 1964.

4. OGLE SAID HIS COMMENT AT NCCC MEETING WAS REASON WHY KCIA INVITED HIM OCTOBER 11 TO KCIA HEADQUARTERS.

5. MAIN THRUST OF KCIA INTERROGATION WAS THAT OGLE BROKE KOREAN LAW BY HIS REMARKS. KCIA OFFICERS STRESSED THAT OGLE WAS A FOREIGN GUEST, AND SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL PROTEST. THEY ALSO ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE HIM OF GOVERNMENT'S CASE AGAINST OLD TIME PRP LEFTISTS.

6. WHILE INTERROGATORS DID NOT CHARGE OGLE WITH BEING PART OF PLOT, THEY INDICATED THAT THEY BELIEVED KCCC WAS BEING USED BY PRP. AT END OF INTERROGATION OGLE SIGNED STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NO LONGER CONTINUE HIS PUBLIC EFFORTS TO PROVE INNOCENCE OF PRP PRISONERS. HOWEVER HE SAID HE REFUSED TO ABANDON HIS ROLE IN NCCC WELFARE COMMITTEE FOR FAMILIES OF ALL PRISONERS.

7. OGLE ALSO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT PERMITTED MUCH SLEEP, HIS TREATMENT WAS AT ALL TIMES COURTEOUS. NO THREATS WERE USED DURING INTERROGATION. BEFORE RELEASING OGLE GENERAL YANG TU WON, KCIA, ASSISTANT VICE DIRECTOR FOR SECURITY DID HOWEVER WARN HIM CLEARLY THAT FURTHER INVOLVEMENT IN PRP CASE OR OTHER ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES COULD LEAD EITHER TO DEPORTATION OR TRIAL.

8. OGLE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF PROVOKING ROKG INTO DEPORTING OR IMPRISONING HIM, AND THAT HENCEFORTH HE WOULD BE MORE PRUDENT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF.

9. COMMENT: ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF OLD TIME PRP FIGURES IN NATIONAL UNIFICATION LEAGUE CASE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE POINT FOR GOVERNMENT AND KCIA. OGLE'S EFFORTS TO CHALLENGE GOVT'S VERSION OF THE CASE UNDOUBTEDLY HIT A RAW NERVE, PARTICULARLY WHEN GOVT ALREADY CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICAN MISSIONARY PROTEST ACTIVITIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MISSIONARIES, PRISONERS RELEASE, INTERROGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL06798
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740292-0149
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741048/aaaabosp.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. SEOUL 6797 B. SEOUL 6786
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERROGATION OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY OGLE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS, US, KCIA, (OGLE, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005